

REMARKS

Applicant hereby responds to the Final Office Action mailed July 10, 2006 in relation to the above-identified patent application. In that Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 5-14 and 16-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of the Matthews et al. and Fusaro et al. references. Additionally, the Examiner rejected Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of the Matthews et al. and Fusaro et al. references, and further in view of the Sugihara et al. reference.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Fusaro et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,580,159) cited by the Examiner in support of the Section 103(a) rejection presented in relation to each of the pending claims is itself owned by the assignee of the present application, i.e., Amkor Technology, Inc. In this regard, as is reflected in the Filing Receipt related to the present application, the same is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 10/667,759, which is itself a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 10/354,772 which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,833,609 on December 21, 2004. The '772 Application is itself a continuation of Serial No. 09/434,589 which matured into the cited '159 Patent on June 17, 2003. The continuity between the present application and the cited '159 Patent is based on the existence of the common inventor Robert F. Darveaux.

Applicant notes that in the subject Office Action, the Examiner has not provided any specific prior art characterization for the cited Fusaro et al. reference. As indicated above, the '159 Patent (the cited Fusaro et al. reference) issued on June 17, 2003. The present application was filed on March 29, 2004, i.e., approximately nine months subsequent to the issuance of the '159 Patent. As such, the cited Fusaro et al. reference clearly does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) since the June 17, 2003 issuance date thereof is not more than one year prior to the March 29, 2004 filing date related to the present application. To the extent that the Fusaro et al. reference is deemed to be prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), Applicant respectfully submits that the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103(c)(1) effectively eliminate such reference as prior art in support of the outstanding Section 103 rejection of the pending claims due to the commonality of ownership between the Fusaro et al. reference and the present application, as indicated above. Further, if the Fusaro et al. reference is

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withdrawn as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §103(c)(1) in favor of a newly cited reference, Applicant respectfully requests that the finality of the subject Office Action be withdrawn to afford Applicant an opportunity to address such new reference.

Thus, based on the foregoing, to the extent that the cited Fusaro et al. reference is still deemed by the Examiner to constitute valid prior art in support of the outstanding rejections of the pending claims, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner identify the basis under which the Fusaro et al. reference is deemed to be prior art.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present response does not raise new issues which would require further searching on the part of the Examiner, and therefore respectfully requests that the same be considered and entered by the Examiner.

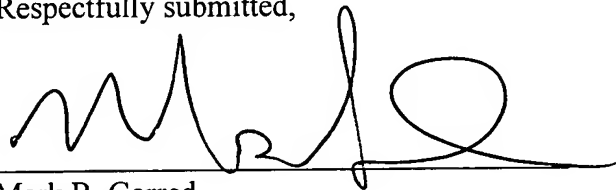
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Respectfully submitted,

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